

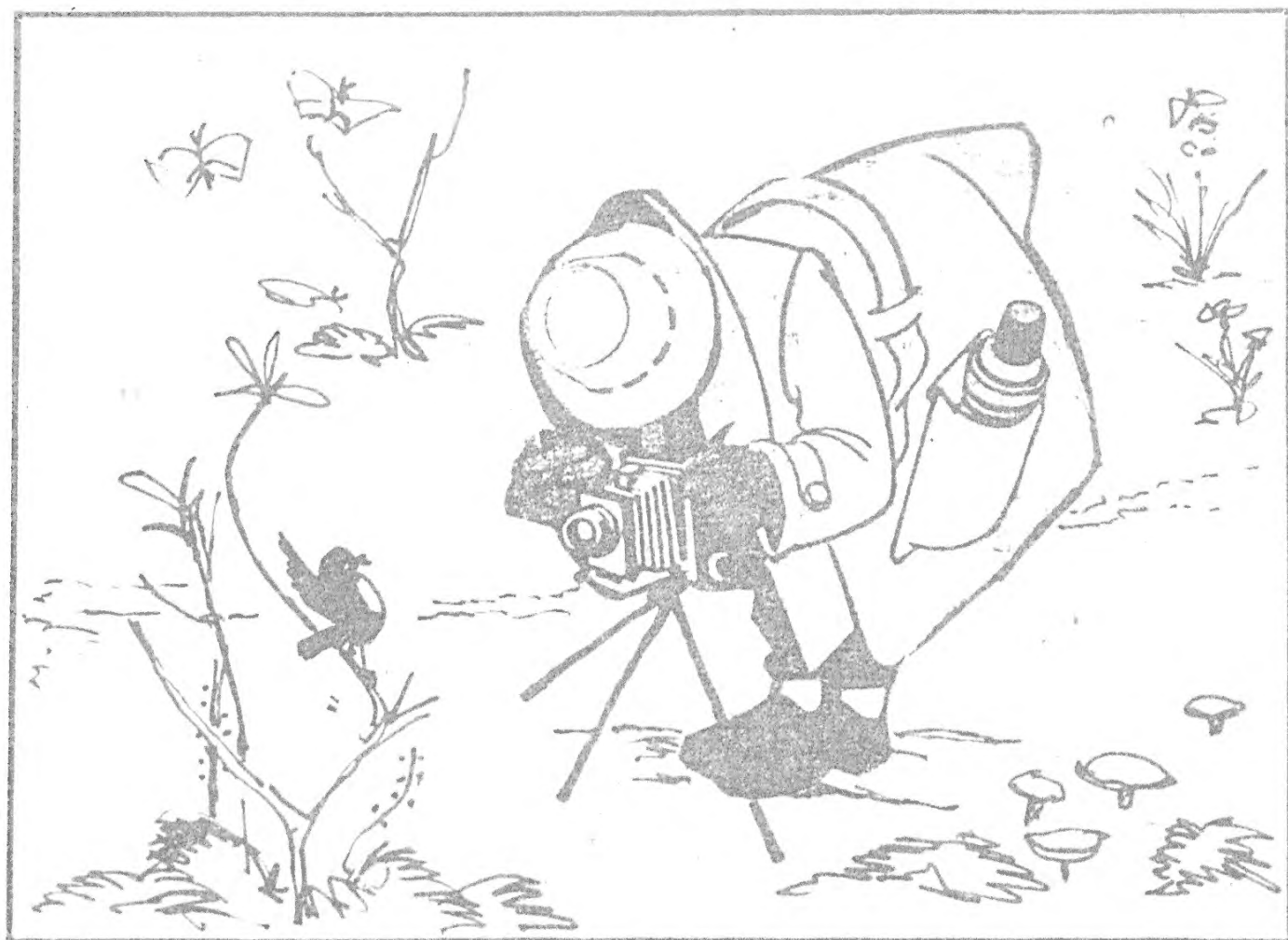
# Field Naturalists Club of Ballarat

*Incorporated*

MARCH 1992

## EXCURSION - NEWS SHEET

Meeting	March 6	Annual General Meeting - Members Night
Meeting	April 3	Nocturnal Friends - Mr Rob. Watkins
Excursion	March 8	Majorca State Forest - Dr F. Harrap
Excursion	April 5	Enfield Forest - Mrs P. Murphy



President	Mr K Hammond	Ph. 051 394534
Vice Pres	Mr K McDonnell	326800
Secretary	Mr J Gregurke	394993
Treasurer	Mrs F Williamson	327631
Editor	Mr L Fink	052 861319

Meetings as specified are held at the School of Mines and Industries, Lyldard Street Sth., Art Building, commencing at 7.30 p.m.  
EXCURSIONS, AS SPECIFIED, COMMENCE FROM CROCKERS, cnr. STURT AND ARMSTRONG STS., BALLARAT, at 9.30 a.m. for FULL DAY OUTINGS OR AT 1.30 p.m. for HALF DAY\*

On one of this summer's rare warm days we had an excursion to explore the Clunes and Carisbrook region. We were ably led Bruce Osborne and Ron Bishop of the Maryborough Field Naturalists Club.

Along the Clunes Creek work is underway to clear the introduced vegetation. One troublesome plant is a spear grass Stipa cordata which was introduced from South America in stock fodder about 20 years ago. Its harsh leaves are not eaten by grazing animals and it is spread by both seeds and the vegetative base of the plant. Spraying has been necessary to control the spear grass.

Anchor plants, a remnant of the original flora growing on the basalt rocks, were inspected along the creek just north of Clunes. The seed from last spring had already dropped. The mature plants had few leaves, relying on the short spiny branches for photosynthesis. Anchor plants which the Maryborough Field Naturalists Club had planted in sandy soil along a lower section of the Tullaroop Creek have not survived well, indicating their preference for the heavy pockets of soil amongst Basalt rock.

The swamps north of Clunes have dried up so the wading birds present up to a few weeks ago had departed. Stories of previous sightings of snakes in the hollow trees were retold. The group trod warily but no reptiles were seen.

Two Brown Falcons were flying over the adjoining paddocks. In the heat of the afternoon few birds were active but we saw Galah, Magpie, Red-rumped Parrot, White-plumed Honeyeater, Red Wattle-bird and Noisy Miner.

Late in the afternoon we arrived at the Carisbrook Stone Circles along the banks of the Tullaroop Creek. There are three circles 2 to 3 metres in diameter and a small mound of stones. The largest arrangement is the shape of a boomerang outlined in small boulders. The boomerang measures 2 metres across and 27 metres from tip to tip. The arrangements are believed to have significance in Aboriginal rituals but the precise purpose is unknown. The area has been securely fenced and studied by the Victoria Archaeological Survey.

#### Diary Dates

March 28: Australian Trust for Conservation Volunteers Open Day at 16 Victoria St, Ballarat.

March 25 Committee meeting at 8pm Helen Burgess house 130 Moola St Ballarat.

We enjoyed tea in the shade of Red Gums on the banks of the Tullaroop Creek. It was interesting to learn that the sand along the banks of the creek had been washed down from mine tailings in the Clunes and Creswick area. The walk upstream after tree revealed many Red Gum trunks of interesting shape but we did not see the platypus which live in the creek. By now the silvery, first quarter moon had risen with the craters and peaks clearly visible through binoculars.

The last stop on the excursion was a walk along the section of the Tullaroop Creek in Carisbrook. Brush-tailed possums were seen and heard scrambling in the trees. Thanks to Bruce, Ron and other members of the Maryborough club who accompanied us on the excursion. JG.



#### Field Reports: February Meeting

- Lyndsay Fink - Flocks of 15-20 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos feeding on seeds of banksia. They have not previously been common around Meredith.
- Avis Barlow - 15 Eastern Rosellas attracted by apple tree to Mt Helen Garden. Large Koala also seen.
- Ken McDonnell - Crested Pigeons as far south as Miners Rest. Wood Sandpiper, Greenshank and Painted Snipe observed on the disappearing waters of Clunes swamp.
- John Gregunke - Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo passed through garden in Wendouree.
- Tony Dyson - Echidna seen at Durham Lead burrowing into pile of forest debris.
- Claire Dalman - Many echidnas active in the Timboon/Peterborough area.
- Ken Hammond - Swamp Wallaby in Wendouree garden; escaped capture by DCE staff.
- Kit Williamson - The Swamp Wallaby grazing on the Ballarat and Queens Anglican Grammar School was not so lucky - it was captured.

The Common Names Of Plants:-

-:Mr.E.Perkins:-

Both Jim Willis and Jean Galbraith use the same common names for plants although some grasses have more than one common name. Common names differ from State to State and even in some Districts the use of a common name is different.

One example is the Blue Gum, each state has its own Eucalypt called Bluegum.

Tonight Ern has used an old Book "Nature Notes" by Walter Bussel, datet 1869.

Native Myrtle or Spring Pursebearer is Bursaria spinosa, known now as Christmas Bush Sweet Bursaria and sometimes Butterfly Bush, which makes it all very clear to the newcomer.

Bird of Paradise Spider Orchids; Oranges and Lemons or Rabbits Ears now is actually Thelymitra antenniferia.

Nut Brown Maid is the Narrow Leaafed Bitter Pea.

Some of the Eucalypts had a rather picture esque ring about them; The Red Gum a grand and noble gum the Honey Scented Gum.

The Red Box was the Dollar leafed Box.

While the Red Gum was Honey Scented Gum the Yellow Box was the Honey Scented Box

With King Cups, Blue Gauntlets, Purple Drops, Blue Bosses, Green Helmets. Hay Scented Lillies and a host of other strange and exotic names that were once used one wonders what some of our common names in use now will still be with us in another 50 or so years.

It was a very good evening and Ern was thanked in our usual style

Large Buttercups, Finger Flower, Tetratheca, Blue Pincushion, Onion Orchids, Chocolate Lillies these are the common used names of the above.

L.F.